AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 63-66. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Withdrawn) A file server comprising:

first storage means for storing use number data relating to the number of uses by a user;

second storage means for storing a plurality of files for provision to said user;

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted by an information processing device operated by said user;

responding means for receiving a file transmission request sent by an information processing device having undergone said authorization, reading out a particular file as specified by said file transmission request from said second storing means, and transmitting same to said information processing device; and

updating means for receiving a confirmation message sent by said information processing device having completed reception of said particular file, and updating the use number data for said user as stored in said first storing means.

2.   (Withdrawn) The file server according to claim 1, wherein said updating means comprises confirming means for receiving a confirmation message sent from said information processing device having completed reception of said particular file, and judging whether or not transmission of said particular file has been successful;

the use number data for said user as stored in said first storing means being

updated when it is judged that transmission of said particular file has been successful.

3.   (Withdrawn) The file server according to claim 1, wherein said responding

means sends data relating to the file size of said particular file to said information processing

device.

4.   (Withdrawn) The file server according to claim 1, wherein said confirming

means receives the reception content received by said information processing device as

transmitted back by said information processing device, and judges whether or not transmission

of said file has been successful by comparing said particular file with said received reception

content.

5.   (Withdrawn) The file server according to claim 3, wherein said responding

means further sends said particular file as a plurality of partial files constituting said file.

6.   (Withdrawn) The file server according to claim 1, wherein said updating means

updates the use number data for said user in accordance with a use number value assigned

respectively to each file stored in said second storing means.

7.   (Original) An information processing device comprising:

connecting means for sending individual information for a user to a file server, in order to connect to said file server;

requesting means for sending a file transmission request relating to a particular file managed by said file server, to said file server;

receiving means for receiving data relating to said particular file as transmitted from said file server in response to said file transmission request;

judging means for judging whether or not reception of said particular file has been completed; and

notifying means for sending a confirmation message to said file server in order to update the use number data relating to the number of uses by a user as managed by said file server, in cases where it is judged by said judging means that reception has been completed.

8.   (Original) The information processing device according to claim 7, wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving data relating to the file size transmitted from said file server; and

said judging means judges whether or not reception has been completed on the basis of data relating to said file size and data relating to said received particular file.

9.   (Original) The information processing device according to claim 7, wherein said information processing device further comprises replying means for sending data relating to the particular file received by said receiving means, to said file server.

10.   (Original) The information processing device according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives data relating to partial files constituting a particular file, and said replying means sends said received data relating to partial files to said file server.

11.   (Withdrawn) A charge management system constituted by an information processing device and a file server,

wherein said file server comprises:

first storage means for storing use number data relating to the number of uses by a user;

second storage means for storing a plurality of files for provision to said user;

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted by an information processing device operated by said user;

responding means for receiving a file transmission request sent by an information processing device having undergone said authorization, reading out a particular file as specified by said file transmission request from said second storing means, and transmitting same to said information processing device;

confirming means for receiving a confirmation message sent by said information processing device having completed reception of said particular file, and judging whether or not transmission of said particular file has been successful; and

updating means for updating the use number data for said user as stored in said

first storing means, when it is judged that transmission of said particular file has been successful;

and

said information processing device comprises:

connecting means for sending individual information for a user to a file server, in

order to establish a connection with said file server;

requesting means for sending a file transmission request relating to a particular

file managed by said file server, to said file server;

receiving means for receiving data relating to said particular file as transmitted

from said file server in response to said file transmission request;

judging means for judging whether or not reception of said particular file has been

completed; and

notifying means for sending a confirmation message to said file server in order to

update the use number data relating to the use number for the user as managed by said file

server, in cases where it is judged by said judging means that reception has been completed.

12. (Original) An information processing device comprising:

volatile storage means;

receiving means for receiving a program application from a file server and

outputting said received program application to said storage means;

executing means for executing said program application; and

halting means for halting the execution of said program application as executed

by said executing means, on the basis of prescribed management information.

13.   (Withdrawn) An information processing device comprising:

volatile storage means;

receiving means for receiving a program application from a file server and

outputting said received program application to said storage means;

executing means for executing an emulator program in order to run said program

application; and

halting means for halting the execution of said program application and/or said

emulation program as executed by said executing means, on the basis of prescribed management

information.

14.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 12 or claim

13, wherein said prescribed management information is either information relating to the use

time period of said program application or information relating to the number of uses thereof.

15.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 12 or claim

13, wherein said information processing device erases said program application stored in said

storing means, when said halting means halts execution of said program application and/or said

emulation program.

16.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein said information processing device further comprises means for receiving information relating to initial start-up from said file server; and said executing means executes said emulator program and/or said program application when said information relating to initial start-up is received.

17.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein said information processing device further comprises clock means for measuring time; said prescribed management information is information relating to the use time period of said program application; and said halting means halts execution of said program application and/or said emulator program on the basis of the time measured by said clock means and said use time period.

18.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein said receiving means receives management information relating to the use time period of said program application from said file server.

19.   (Withdrawn) An information processing device comprising:

volatile storage means;

clock means for measuring time;

first receiving means for receiving management information relating to a use time period from a file server;

judging means for judging whether or not a program application transmission

request can be made to said file server, on the basis of the time period measured by said clock

means and said received management information relating to the use time period;

second receiving means for making a transmission request for said program

application to said file server, when it is judged that said transmission request can be made,

receiving a program application sent from said file server in response to said transmission

request, and outputting said received program application to said storage means; and

executing means for executing an emulator program in order to execute said

received program application.

20.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 19, wherein

said information processing device further comprises halting means for controlling said

executing means so as to halt execution of said program application and/or said emulator

program, on the basis the time period measured by said clock means and a time period indicated

by management information relating to said use time period.

21.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 20, wherein

said halting means performs control in such a manner that execution of said program application

and/or said emulator program is halted if the time period measured by said clock means has

exceeded a time period obtained by adding a prescribed time period to the time period indicated

by the management information relating to said use time period.

22.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 19, wherein

said judging means judges that said transmission request cannot be made, in cases where the time

period measured by said clock means exceeds the time period indicated by the management

information relating to said use time period.

23.   (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 13 or claim

19, wherein said emulator program is read in from an external storage medium.

24.   (Withdrawn) A charge management server comprising:

storage means for storing use number data relating to the use number of a user, in

which a second use number value has previously been added to a first use number value that is to

be reported to the user;

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse a connection

on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted from the client device operated by

said user;

updating means for updating the use number value indicated by said use number

data, in accordance with the connection time of said user; and

terminating means for terminating the connection with said information

processing device, if the use number value updated by said updating means exceeds a first

prescribed value.

25.   (Withdrawn) The charge management server according to claim 24, wherein said authorizing means refuses a connection with said client device, if the first use number value indicated by said use number data exceeds a second prescribed value.

26.   (Withdrawn) The charge management server according to claim 24, wherein said updating means updates said second use number value, if said first use number value exceeds said second prescribed value.

27.   (Withdrawn) The charge management server according to claim 26, wherein said charge management server sends a notification to said user, whenever said updating means updates said second use number value.

28.   (Withdrawn) A charge management server comprising:

storage means for storing use number data relating to the use number of a user;

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse a connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted from the client device operated by said user;

updating means for updating the use number value indicated by said use number data, in accordance with the connection time of said user; and

terminating means for terminating the connection with said client device, if the use number value indicated by said use number data exceeds a prescribed value, and if it is judged that a prescribed date and time has passed.

29.   (Withdrawn) A charge management server comprising:

storage means for storing use number data relating to the use number of a user,

which gives a prescribed use number value that is to be reported to the user,

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse a connection

on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted from the client device operated by

said user; and

updating means for updating the use number value indicated by said use number

data, in accordance with the connection time of said user;

wherein the portion of the number value updated by said updating means which

exceeds said prescribed use number value is deducted from the use number data of said user,

upon the next occasion that said user makes a connection.

30.   (Withdrawn) The charge management server according to any one of claims 24

to 29, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving a download request from said information

processing device; and

transmitting means for transmitting a particular file in accordance with said

received download request;

wherein, whilst said transmitting means is transmitting said particular file, said

updating means updates the use number value indicated by said use number data according to a

use number value corresponding to said file, instead of updating a use number value

corresponding to said connection time.

31. (Withdrawn) The charge management server according to claim 30, wherein said charge management server updates the use number value indicated by said use number data, if said information processing device has completed reception of said particular file.

32. (Withdrawn) A charge management method for a file server comprising first storage means for storing use number data relating to the number of uses by a user, and second storage means for storing a plurality of files for provision to said user; comprising the steps of:

performing authorization to permit or refuse connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted by an information processing device operated by said user;

receiving a file transmission request sent by an information processing device having undergone said authorization is read out, reading out a particular file as specified by said file transmission request from said second storing means, and transmitting same to said information processing device; and

receiving a confirmation message sent by said information processing device having completed reception of said particular file, and updating the use number data for said user as stored in said first storing means.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling an information processing device comprising the steps of: receiving a program application from a file server, storing said received program application in volatile storing means, executing an emulator program in order to execute

said program application, and halting the execution of said program application on the basis of management information relating to a use time period.

34.   (Withdrawn) A charge management method comprising the steps of:

storing use number data relating to the use number of a user, in which a second use number value has previously been added to a first use number value that is to be reported to the user;

performing authorization to permit or refuse a connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted from the client device operated by said user;

updating the use number value indicated by said use number data, in accordance with the connection time of said user; and

terminating the connection with said client device, if the use number value updated by said updating means exceeds a first prescribed value.

35.   (Withdrawn) A content charging method for use when streaming video or streaming audio program data is delivered to a client device from a server by means of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

previously dividing said program data into a plurality -of blocks and storing same;

delivering one or a plurality of said divided block data, sequentially, from said server to said client device;

receiving a reception notice sent from said client device to said server, each time said delivery is received; and

implementing charging on the basis of said reception notice.

36.   (Withdrawn) A contents server for delivering program data to a client device by means of a communications network, comprising:

storage means for storing said program data;

delivering means for delivering said program data in response to a request from said client device;

identifying means for identifying reception of a reception notice signal transmitted by said client device each time that a prescribed data volume of said program data is received; and

charging means for implementing charge processing with respect to said client device, on the basis of said reception notice signal.

37.   (Withdrawn) The contents server according to claim 36, wherein said program data is previously divided into blocks of a plurality of block data;

said delivering means delivers one or a plurality of block data of said program data as a transmission unit; and

said client device sends a reception notice signal to the contents server each time that one or a plurality of block data is received.

38.   (Withdrawn) The contents server according to claim 36 or claim 37, wherein said program data includes streaming video or streaming audio data.

39.   (Withdrawn) The contents server according to claim 36 or 37, wherein said client device performs streaming reproduction of said received program data.

40.   (Withdrawn) The contents server according to claim 36 or 37, wherein said client device is a game device.

41.   (Withdrawn) The contents server according to claim 36 or claim 37, wherein said program data is data to be reproduced in a continuous manner.

42.   (Withdrawn) A client device in a network system whereby program data is delivered to a client device from a server by means of a communications network, comprising:

        delivery requesting means for requesting delivery of said program data from said server;

        receiving means for receiving said program data from said server; and

        notifying means for sending a reception notice signal to said server for each prescribed data volume of said program data from said server.

43.   (Withdrawn) The client device according to claim 42, wherein said program data is previously divided into a plurality of block data;

        said receiving means receives said program data in units of one or a plurality of block data; and

said notifying means sends a reception notice signal to said server each time one or a plurality of block data is received.

44.   (Withdrawn) The client device according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said program data is data to be reproduced in a continuous manner.

45.   (Withdrawn) The client device according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said program data includes streaming video or streaming audio data.

46.   (Withdrawn) The client device according to claim 42 or 43, further comprising reproducing means for performing streaming reproduction of said received program data.

47.   (Withdrawn) The client device according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said client device is a game device.

48.   (Withdrawn) A network content delivery system for delivering program data to a client device from a server by means of a communications network, wherein

said server comprises;

storage means for storing said program data;

delivering means for delivering said program data in response to a request from said client device;

receiving means for receiving a reception notice signal sent by said client device each time a prescribed data volume of said program data is received;

identifying means for identifying said reception notice signal; and

charging means for implementing charge processing with respect to said client device on the basis of said reception notice signal; and

said client device comprises:

delivery requesting means for requesting delivery of said program data from said server;

receiving means for receiving said program data from said server; and

notifying means for delivering a reception notice signal to said server each time that a prescribed data volume of said program data is received from said server.

49.   (Withdrawn) The network contents delivery system according to claim 48, wherein said program data is previously divided into a plurality of block data;

said delivering means delivers said program data in transmission units of one or a plurality of block data; and

said client device transmits said reception notice signal to said server each time that it receives one or a plurality of block data.

50.   (Withdrawn) The network contents delivery system according to claim 48 or 49, wherein said program data is data to be reproduced in a continuous manner.

51.   (Withdrawn) The network contents delivery system according to claim 48 or 49, wherein said program data includes streaming video or streaming audio data.

52.   (Withdrawn) The network contents delivery system according to claim 48 or 49, wherein said client device performs streaming reproduction of said received program data.

53.   (Withdrawn) The network contents delivery system according to claim 48 or 49, wherein said client device is a game device.

54.   (Withdrawn) The contents charging method according to claim 35, wherein a fee is determined for each block of said program data.

55.   (Withdrawn) A charge management system constituted by an information processing device and file server,

wherein said file server comprises:

first storage means for storing use number data relating to the number of uses by a user;

second storage means for storing a plurality of files for provision to said user;

authorizing means for performing authorization to permit or refuse connection on the basis of individual information for the user transmitted by an information processing device operated by said user;

responding means for receiving a file transmission request sent by an information processing device having undergone said authorization, reading out a particular file as specified by said file transmission request from said second storing means, and transmitting same to said information processing device in a sequential fashion;

confirming means for receiving a confirmation message sent from said information processing device having completed reception of said particular file, and judging whether or not transmission of said particular file has been successful;

and updating means for updating the use number data for said user as stored in said first storing means when it is judged that transmission of said particular file has been successful;

and said information processing device comprises:

connecting means for sending individual information for a user to a file server, in order to establish a connection to said file server;

requesting means for sending a file transmission request relating to a particular file managed by said file server, to said file server;

receiving means for receiving data relating to said particular file as transmitted from said file server in response to said file transmission request;

judging means for judging whether or not reception of said particular file has been completed; and

notifying means for sending a confirmation message to said file server in order to update the use number data relating to the use number for the user as managed by said file server, in cases where it is judged by said judging means that reception has been completed.

56.   (Withdrawn) The charge management system according to claim 55, wherein

said program data is previously divided into a plurality of block data;

        said transmitting means transmits said program data in transmission units of one

or a plurality of block data; and

        said information processing device transmits said reception notice signal to said

file server each time that it receives one or a plurality of block data.

57.   (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing a

computer system to function as the file server according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

58.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing

a computer system to function as the information processing device according to any one of

claims 7-10 7 to 10, or claims 12 to 23.

59.   (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing a

computer system to function as the charge management server according to any one of claims 24

to 31.

60.   (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing a

computer system to function as the contents server according to any one of claims 36 to 41.

61.   (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing a computer system to function as the client device according to any one of claims 36 to 47.

62.   (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing a computer program for causing a computer system to implement the method according to any one of claims 32 to 35, or 54.

63.   (New) A method for controlling a computer, said computer being made by a program to function as connection means for connecting to a file server, requesting means for requesting said file server to send a file, receiving means for receiving said file from said file server, judging means for judging whether reception from said file server has been completed, and notifying means for sending a message to said file server, said computer functioning as an information processing device by executing the steps of:

said connecting means sending individual information for a user to said file server in order to connect to said file server;

said requesting means sending a file transmission request relating to a particular file managed by said file server to said file server;

said receiving means receiving data relating to said particular file as transmitted from said filer server in response to said file transmission request;

said judging means judging whether or not reception of said particular file has been completed; and

said notifying means sending a confirmation message to said file server in order to update the use number data relating to the number of uses by a user as managed by said file server, in cases where it is judged by said judging means that reception has been completed.

64.   (New) The method for controlling a computer according to claim 63, wherein said receiving means executes a step of receiving data relating to a file size transmitted from said file server; and said judging means executes a step of judging whether or not reception has been completed, on the basis of the data relating to the file size and the received data relating to said particular file.

65.   (New) The method for controlling a computer according to claim 63, wherein said program further makes said computer function as replying means, and said replying means executes a step of sending the data relating to the particular file received by said receiving means, to said file server.

66.   (New) The method for controlling a computer according to claim 65, wherein said receiving means executes a step of receiving data relating to partial files constituting a particular file; and

said replying means executes a step of sending the received data relating to partial files to said filer server.